



How the Famous Disc Clutch of the Buick "Four" Proved Itself.

The same design of disc clutch that was used in the powerful war tanks is likewise used in the Buick Four.

The Buick clutch under the most gruelling conditions, has proved itself absolutely positive, dependable, and easy to operate—a clutch that demonstrated the same certainty and safety for unforeseen emergency that it did for ordinary service.

This thoroughly trustworthy unit is a development of 20 years of consistent effort. It is typically representative of the standards governing the construction of the Buick Four throughout.

MT. STERLING GARAGE

WHEN BETTER AUTOMOBILES ARE BUILT
BUICK WILL BUILD THEM

INSURANCE OF CROPS

The first "underwriters" were the merchants who shared risks to ship and the cargoes.

Fire insurance followed.

Then life insurance began to be written, and we have forty million life policies in the United States today.

After life came accident insurance and credit insurance, and now we can insure against burglary, defalcation, rain, snow, hail and tornado; against old age, wars and strikes. It is said that Lloyds in London have written policies that called for the payment of a "total loss" to parents to whom twins were born!

A great authority on insurance, Charlton Thomas Lewis, Ph. D., says in the Encyclopaedia Britannica:

The value of insurance as an institution cannot be measured by figures. No direct balance sheet of profit and loss can exhibit its utility. The insurance contract produces no wealth. It represents only expenditure. If a thousand men insured themselves against any contingency, then, whether or not the dreaded event occurs to any, they will in the aggregate be poorer, as the direct result, by the exact cost of the machinery for effecting it. "The distribution of property is charged, its sum is not increased. But the results in the social economy, the substitution of reasonable foresight and the confidence for apprehension and the sense of hazard, the large elimination of chance from business and the conduct have a supreme value. The direct contribution of insurance to civilization is made not in visible weather, but in the

intangible and immeasurable forces of character on which civilization itself is founded. It has done more than all gifts of impulsive charity to foster a sense of human brotherhood and a common interests. It has done more than all repressive legislation to destroy the gambling spirit. It is impossible to conceive of our civilization in its full vigor and progressive power without this principle, which unites the fundamental law of practical economy, that he best serves humanity who best serves himself, with the golden rule of religion, "Bear ye one another's burdens."

Crop insurance is not a new idea. At least two joint stock fire insurance companies and several mutuals have tried it, but they had no experience upon which to base rates, and found that in order to get a fair average they would have to blindly accept risks so large that their capital might be jeopardized. Even to those who know but little about the science of underwriting it is plain that a very large number of widely scattered crops would have to be insured before the probable percentage of loss could be ascertained.

A rate so high that it would absolutely protect the insurer would be regarded as extortionate, and no one would take out a policy, while a rate that was too low might bankrupt the underwriter if he did a large business or had many risks in one locality.

Then there is a question of determining or measuring the farmer's loss. Manifestly it would be unwise to allow him to insure his crop for any valuation he chose to put upon it. An overvaluation would be an incentive to neglect and extravagance and would lead to the presentation of many unfair or fictitious claims. On the other hand, an under-valuation would not give the protection required.

In so far as any rule has been applied by those companies who have written crop insurance the practice seems to have been to insure the actual cost of production up to a certain maximum per acre and to require that the farmer insured must furnish satisfactory proof that the amount claimed has been actually expended.

In some cases crop policies have also contained a provision making the farmer a "coinsurer" for 20 per cent of the risk, so that he would have an additional incentive to avoid loss. The price of the crop insured at planting time is another factor that must be taken into consideration if the indemnity provided is to cover a possible deficiency between the proceeds finally realized at harvest time and the ascertained cost of production.

It seems reasonable to assume that if prices were low when the crop was being sown the risk would be less than if prices were high. The cost of production would be smaller, and the chance of an advance in values that would offset crop failure would be greater. As a generalization therefore we may conclude that rates ought to have a direct relation to the prevailing values of agricultural products when the policies were written. But in its other aspects the problem is not so simple.

The cost of producing a crop varies

in different regions or on different lands. In the Atlantic States fertilizer is required to produce a good cotton crop. In Texas fertilizer is not used. The cost of labor also varies in different sections.

These factors that would have to be taken into consideration in determining the insurable maximum of production costs.

It might be necessary to have each insured farm surveyed in order to fix rates and insurable values fairly. This would seem to involve an appalling amount of detail, but does it? Every building in almost every city and town of the United States has been surveyed in the interest of the fire insurance companies.

In most fire insurance offices there are to be found huge books of maps on which the area, height, construction, fire exposure and hazards of every building in every city of the United States and Canada are accurately set forth. These maps are kept up to date by the company which issues them. The corrections are made by pasting the maps of new buildings over those which have been demolished.

According to the last census, there are 6,448,336 farms in the United States. The number of buildings in our cities is known, but New York city alone has over 600,000 and the total in all cities is probably well over 6,000,000. If they can be mapped as the feat of surveying the farms would not seem so difficult and the information in regard to soil, area and productivity thus made available would be invaluable.

With it as a basis equitable rates for writing crop insurance could be speedily established and with a crop insurance policy added to the other security that a farmer can offer his financial problem would be much simplified.

Most people are widely opposed to having government enter any business that its citizens can handle, but here is a business that private capital cannot undertake because of its novelty and magnitude.

Shortly after the outbreak of the war on the 1st of August, 1914, the then secretary of the treasury, Wil-

liam G. McAdoo, asked Congress for authority to organize an American War Risk Insurance Bureau for insuring hulls and cargoes under the American flag. The necessary legislation providing an initial fund of \$5,000,000 was passed. The bureau was organized and was functioning by the second of September, 1914. It continued in existence until the end of the war. Its record is remarkable.

The total of the policies issued was \$2,354,000,000. The premiums received amounted to \$46,000,000, and the losses paid were \$29,000,000, leaving a profit of 17,000,000. The expense of conducting this enormous business for the four years was only 165,000, or hardly more than one-third of one per cent upon the premiums received. When compared with the cost of conducting the insurance business under private auspices these figures seem to be almost incredible, and they are an effective refutation of the frequent repeated assertion that government engagement is always inefficient and extravagant.

FARMERS TO DEMONSTRATE ADVANTAGES OF DRAINAGE

Four farmers in the vicinity of Berea have arranged to conduct drainage demonstrations this year in co-operation with County Agent R. F. Spence and the College of Agriculture extension division to show the farmers in that section of the state the advantages of drainage together with the best practices in regard to planning a drainage system and installing the tile, according to E. G. Welch, farm engineering specialist of the college. Those who will co-operate are Charles Jett, Richmond; M. T. Moore, Berea; J. J. Beich, Crab Orchard, and J. S. Swinford, Disputana.

Surveys of the areas to be drained already have been made by the college farm engineering department for Mr. Jett and Mr. Moore, the former having installed a portion of the system. Work on the other demonstrations is expected to be completed at once.

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Easter SUNDAY

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POEM BY UNCLE JOHN

Tell me not in hopeful numbers, life is saved by drinkin' "Jake"—for the man is dead that slumbers in a jag from moonshine make. Soft drinks don't improve the system—near beer ain't no bosom friend. Them old high-balls—how we've mislead 'em, spiked with bar-keep's favorite blend! Now, I front the sody fountain,— somehow, can't suppress the winks,—when my thirst could climb a mountain, I abhor them fuzzy drinks. Not enjoyment, and not sorrow, follers in their kickless wake. Man can't steal, or geg, or borrow snifters like he used to take!

Like a dose of aqua-fortis, home-made hicker finds the spot,—but the fits, an' rigor-mortis—I would jes' as soon be shot! Saw it lately in the paper, feller made a jug of "Hootch."

When he went up in vapor, neighbors said it beat the Dutch.

Then, it said, another duffer, tryin' out his private make,—awful how it made him suffer,—knocked him colder than a snake! Let us, then, be up and doin', with a heart that ne'er forgets—Ain't no suds that's wuth the brewin' since the drys kerflopped the wets. Let us always all remember that the people has the say. Law is law in June, December, or in March so let's obey.

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